

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04939 031321 Z

46

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 IO-03 NEA-06 EA-13

AF-04 PM-03 INR-09 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-10

GAC-01 SAJ-01 MBFR-02 L-02 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 RSC-01

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R 031254 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8459

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T MOSCOW 4939

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: XDGS(1)

TAGS: PFOR, UR, FR, CH, GW, XF

SUBJ: GENERAL DE BOISSIEU' S CONVERSATION WITH MARSHALL GRECHKO

1. AT WEEKLY QUADRIpartite MEETING MAY 3, FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT
GAVE FOLLOWING RUNDOWN OF GENERAL DE BOISSIEU' S MEETING WITH
GRECHKO
ON APRIL 25:

A. GRECHKO TOLD GENERAL DE BOISSIEU THAT HE WAS PREOCCUPIED
WITH THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. GRECHKO SAID HE HAD IMPRESS-
ION THAT EGYPT WAS PREPARING FOR INITIATION OF ARMED ACTION
AGAINST ISRAEL. ACCORDING TO GRECHKO, SOVIET UNION WAS DOING
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 04939 031321 Z

EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT A NEW OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES.

B. GRECHKO ASKED WHETHER FRENCH COULD INFLUENCE EGYPT AND LIBYA AGAINST SUCH ACTION. GRECHKO WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED TO APPLY PRESSURE AGAINST QADHAFI, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS NEITHER A POLITICIAN NOR A STATESMAN. GRECHKO CHARACTERIZED QADHAFI AS A " DANGEROUS PERSON SITTING ON A HEAP OF GOLD."

2. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION, GRECHKO NOTED THAT HE WAS FRIGHTENED BY LAST NUCLEAR EXPERIMENT WHICH HE HAD WITNESSED. HE COMMENTED TO GENERAL DE GOISSIEU THAT THE ONLY HOPE FOR MANKIND IS TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS THROUGH TALKS AND NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLE CATAclysm.

3. ON CHINA, GRECHKO CONJECTURED THAT CHINA WOULD BE A REAL NUCLEAR POWER WITHIN 20 YEARS. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE RECALLED MAO' STATEMENT THAT CHINA COULD WITHSTAND THE LOSS OF 300 MILLION PEOPLE IN A CONFLICT IF NECESSARY.

4. GRECHKO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE PRESENT STATE OF THE SOVIET UNION' S RELATIONS WITH THE FRG. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE CURRENT POLICIES OF THE FRG BUT ADDED THAT HIS ONLY CONCERN WAS WHAT A FUTURE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC MIGHT BRING.
DUBS

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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HONG KONG
LONDON
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